

Proposed conservation of the specific names *Melania curvicostata* Reeve, 1861 and *Goniobasis paupercula* Lea, 1862 (currently *Elimia curvicostata* and *E. paupercula*) (Mollusca, Gastropoda, PLEUROCERIDAE): case closed

(Case 3232; see BZN 60: 109–112, 300–302; 61: 106–108)

1. Fred G. Thompson (*Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida 32611, U.S.A.*) and Elizabeth E. Mihalcik (*Bainbridge College, Bainbridge, Georgia 31317, U.S.A.*) submitted a proposal to conserve a specific name in prevailing use, *Melania curvicostata* Reeve, 1861, by designating a neotype. This action was regarded as necessary because the syntypes in the Natural History Museum, London, attributed to this taxon represent a different species, *Goniobasis paupercula* Lea, 1862.

2. Dietrich Kadolsky (BZN 60: 302; 61: 106–108) noted the existence of the name *Melania curvicostata* Melleville, 1843 (p. 94, pl. 4, figs. 10–12), which predates Reeve's name. The name *Melania curvicostata* Reeve, 1861 is therefore a junior primary homonym and is not available under Articles 23.4, 57.2 and 60 of the Code.

3. The next oldest available name *Melania densicostata* Reeve, 1861 has been considered a junior subjective synonym of *Elimia curvicostata* since Tryon (1864). The species was described from 'Florida, USA'. Reeve's description is lacking diagnostic features essential for identifying this taxon (see Mihalcik & Thompson, 2002; BZN 60: 109–112). The extant syntypes attributed to this species in the Natural History Museum, London, bear no resemblance to Reeve's figure nor does any known population have the densely costate sculpture depicted in Reeve's figure. The name *Melania densicostata* is a nomen dubium because of the lack of essential identifying characters in Reeve's description and illustration and also a nomen oblitum because it has not been used since Tryon (1864) except as a synonym of *Elimia curvicostata* (Article 23.9.1.1).

4. *Goniobasis doolyensis* Lea, 1862 had been used as the valid name for a species until Hannibal (1912) placed it without discussion in synonymy with *Ambloxis virginicus* (= *Elimia virginica* (Gmelin, 1791)). Goodrich (1942), also without discussion, included the name *Goniobasis doolyensis* in the synonymy of *Goniobasis curvicostata* (= *Elimia curvicostata* (Reeve, 1861)). This action was followed by Clench & Turner (1956) and Chambers (1990). Chambers designated and figured the lectotype (United States National Museum 119121). Mihalcik & Thompson (2002) published a figure of the lectotype and discussed salient features that identified it as being the species hitherto known as *Elimia curvicostata*. The name *Goniobasis doolyensis* is an available name with an identifiable primary type. Extant populations of the freshwater snail species hitherto known as *Elimia curvicostata* may be clearly identified as belonging to the same taxon. It is the oldest available name for the species known until now as *Elimia curvicostata* (Reeve, 1861) (Article 23.12.2) and, therefore, the name *Elimia doolyensis* (Lea, 1862) is adopted as the valid name for this taxon.

5. This case is now closed.

Additional references

- Hannibal, H.** 1912. A synopsis of the Recent and Tertiary freshwater Mollusca of the California province, based upon an ontogenetic classification. *Proceedings of the Malacological Society of London*, **10**: 112–211.
- Mihalcik, E.E. & Thompson, F.G.** 2002. A taxonomic revision of the freshwater snails referred to as *Elimia curvicostata*, and related species. *Walkerana*, **13**(29/30): 1–108.